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DE RUEHAE #0026 0161336
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FM AMEMBASSY ASMARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9389
INFO RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1573
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1751
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEPADJ/CJTF-HOA J2X CAMP LEMONIER DJ
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUMICEA/JICCENT MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS ASMARA 000026

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS
DEPT FOR AF/E, DS/IP/AF, DS/IP/ITA

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: TWO UNMEE DRIVERS CONSCRIPTED INTO EDF

(SBU) A high ranking UNMEE official informed EmbOffs that two of their Eritrean truck drivers had been conscripted into military service while actively working for UNMEE, despite having already completed national service. He said the drivers had been missing for two days and UNMEE personnel began a search for the vehicle and its occupants. The water tanker they were driving was found along its route near the town of Shilalo in Sector West but has not yet been released by the Eritrean Government. The UNMEE Source had no further information into the circumstances of their arrest. UNMEE does not expect any problems in eventually retrieving their vehicle but does not believe the drivers will be released.
MCMULLEN